

MEETING No. 47

Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE)

Meeting Minutes

Date:	19 July 2017	Time:	5.30 pm
Location:	EPA Office, 117 Bull Street, Newcastle		
Attendees: Committee Members and Guests			
NCCCE:			
	John Tate (Chair)		
	Dr Craig Dalton (NSW Health)		
	Michael Dowzer, (Industry)		
	Cynthia Isley (Minister's Community Nominee Deputy)		
	Eden Simic (Industry)		
	Sherree Woodroffe (Industry)		
Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)			
	Scott Thompson, Senior Air Quality Monitoring Officer		
EPA			
	Karen Marler, Director Hunter		
	Marshall Sing, EPA Career Trackers Intern		
	Leanne Graham, Community Engagement Officer		
Apologies:	Andrew Baxter, Paul McMurray (City of Newcastle)		
	A/Prof Howard Bridgman (Minister's Community Nominee)		
	Dr John Mackenzie (Environment)		
Absent:	Rick Banyard (Community)		
	Keith Craig (Community)		

Item	Meeting Minutes
1	Welcome The Chair welcomed attendees.
2	Apologies As above.
3	Minutes from Previous Meeting (17 May 2017) The Committee adopted the draft previous minutes as a true and accurate record.

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Actions Arising from Previous Meetings summary

Meeting No. 46 (17 May 2017) Action 1. Update 19/07/17. In response to community concerns about reporting to the National Pollution Inventory (NPI) by power stations, the EPA is reviewing five years' continuous monitoring data for all NSW power stations.

The EPA's initial review found no evidence of deliberate misreporting of emission data to the NPI. Measured and reported data for all pollutants were well below the relevant limits. Accredited testing providers conducted testing for power stations' emissions in accordance with the Approved Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW.

The EPA regulates power stations in accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and associated regulations including the Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2010. The EPA does not directly regulate emissions from individual power stations based on the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI). Annual emission loads reported in the NPI are not synonymous with ambient air quality or community exposure to air pollution.

The EPA's review will inform a wider review of NSW power stations' Environment Protection Licences, to ensure consistency in monitoring of the appropriate substances at the appropriate limits and frequencies and with appropriate techniques.

Meeting No. 46 (17 May 2017) Action 2. Completed 31/05/17. The OEH investigated factors influencing a peak in PM₁₀ levels at Wallsend, at 8:15 am to 2:30 pm, on 24 February 2017. The OEH found that Newcastle City Council conducted mulching activities close to the Wallsend monitoring site on 24 February. The OEH's quality assurance protocols state that elevated particle measurements, associated with an infrequent local activity, do not represent particle levels in the wider community. Therefore, the OEH invalidated the monitoring data for 24 February 2017. The published newsletter, *Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network Seasonal Newsletter, Summer 2016-2017*, reported 27 days with PM₁₀ levels above the national benchmark, rather than 28 days, reported in the draft newsletter.

Meeting No. 46 (17 May 2017) Action 3. Completed 19/07/17. The OEH presented the Committee with options for reporting annual trends in particle levels. The draft newsletter, *Newcastle Air Quality Seasonal Newsletter, Autumn 2017*, incorporated the new graphs, for discussion in Item 6.

Meeting No. 46 (17 May 2017) Action 4. Update due 18/10/17. The EPA will report to the Committee, at the next meeting, on the actual income and expenditure for operating the Newcastle local air quality monitoring network in the financial year 2016-2017.

Meeting No. 46 (17 May 2017) Action 5. Completed 19/07/17. The EPA and the Committee discussed new approaches to communicating messages on local air quality to the wider community, in Item 7.

	<p><u>Meeting No. 46 (17 May 2017) Action 6.</u> Update 18/10/17. The EPA will update the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations in the report on the Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Program, as information becomes available.</p> <p><u>Meeting No. 46 (17 May 2017) Action 7.</u> Update 18/10/17. The EPA will update the Committee on EPA funding for contaminated land management, as information becomes available.</p>
5	<p>Community Feedback</p> <p>The Chair invited Committee members to report on feedback received from their contact networks since the previous meeting.</p> <p>Ms Isley confirmed the progress of planning by the Hunter branch of the Clean Air Society for Australia and New Zealand and the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, for a climate change seminar in October 2017, on a date to be announced.</p> <p>Action 1. The EPA will inform the Committee of the date for a change seminar to held in October 2017, by the Clean Air Society for Australia and New Zealand and the Australian Meteorological, as information becomes available.</p> <p>The Chair encouraged Committee members to take the opportunity in this standing agenda item, at the next meeting, to report on information flows between the Committee members and their contact networks.</p>
6	<p>Air Quality in NSW: Autumn 2017</p> <p>Mr Thompson presented the draft Newcastle air quality newsletter for autumn 2017. Air quality levels were generally good in terms of the NSW Air Quality Index.</p> <p>Levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ammonia and PM_{2.5} (particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 microns in diameter) were all below benchmarks.</p> <p>Stockton recorded 11 days above the benchmark for particulate matter PM₁₀ (particles less than or equal to 10 microns in diameter). These occurred mostly during onshore northeast winds when particle levels are influenced by sea salt.</p> <p>The Lower Hunter region received average rainfall overall during autumn 2017 compared to long term records. Rainfall was above average in March and below average in May.</p> <p>Mr Thompson noted the additional graphs in the draft newsletter, showing annual and seasonal air trends in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. The Committee agreed that the graphs added value, by comparing air quality in current periods with records since 2014.</p> <p>Recommendation 1. The Committee recommended the OEH included graphs showing annual and seasonal air trends in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} in the final Newcastle air quality newsletter for autumn 2017 and in future seasonal newsletters.</p>

	<p>The Committee endorsed the final draft <i>Newcastle Air Quality Monitoring Network Seasonal Newsletter, Autumn-2017</i>, for publication on the OEH website.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr Thompson and the OEH for responding to the Committee's request for additional information on long terms trends in particle levels.</p>
7	<p>Discussion: New approaches to communicating good news air quality messages to the wider community.</p> <p>The EPA recapped communication channels used to engage with the wider community, since the Committee's inception in 2012. Ms Marler presented an example of the EPA's new approach to reducing wood smoke emissions by encouraging behaviour change.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of various communication channels for engaging the wider community. Options included face to face engagement at community events, such as street fairs and the wider use of social media, including Twitter and You Tube.</p> <p>Recommendation 2. The Committee recommended the EPA prepares a communications strategy for the Committee's consideration, detailing key messages on air quality, audience groups and costs and benefits of communication channels.</p>
8	<p>Local Environmental Issues Update</p> <p>Ms Marler provided an update on the following issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air for NSW <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPA held the NSW Clean Air Summit in Sydney on 27 July 2017. The Minister for the Environment, Hon. Gabrielle Upton gave the opening address on the Government's commitment to improve air quality across NSW. Speakers from the health sector, research and industry also presented. • Over 350 people attended, including Committee members. Chair John Tate represented the NCCCE as a panel member in a discussion on community, health and industry perspectives on air quality. Adam Gilligan, EPA Director North Branch, presented on dust management at Hunter valley coal mines. • Background papers, research papers and speakers' presentations are available on the EPA website. The EPA will finalise a 10-year plan for Clean Air, to be published in 2017. • Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OEH report on Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Program awaits approval for publication. • Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study, Coal Grain Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summary brochure and full report on the Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study, Coal Grain Analysis are available on the OEH website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPA and CSIRO are conducting particle characterisation on dust samples from industries adjacent to the Newcastle port, to investigate potential sources of non-coal particles identified in the report.
10	<p>General Business</p> <p>At the next meeting, Orica will report on the characterisation of PM_{2.5} samples from Stockton, collected in April to September 2015 and 2016. The presentation will report on Orica's investigation of technologies to reduce ammonium nitrate emissions.</p>
11	Next Meeting 18 October 2017
Meeting closed: 7:50 pm	

ACTION ITEM LOG		
NCCCE MEETING NO. 46, 17 May 2017	DUE	RESP
Action 4. The EPA will report to the Committee in October 2017 on the actual income and expenditure for operating the network in the financial year 2016-2017.	18/10/17	EPA
Action 6. The EPA will provide updates to Committee on the implementation of the recommendations in the report on the <i>Lower Hunter River Health Monitoring Program</i> , as information becomes available.	Update 19/07/17	EPA
Action 7. The EPA will provide update to the Committee on EPA funding for contaminated land management, as information becomes available.	Update 19/07/17	EPA
NCCCE MEETING NO. 47, 19 July 2017	DUE	RESP
Action 1. The EPA will confirm with the Committee the date for the change seminar to held in October 2017, by the Clean Air Society for Australia and New Zealand and the Australian Meteorological, as information becomes available.	ASAP	EPA
Recommendation 1. The Committee recommended the OEH included graphs showing annual and seasonal air trends in PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5} in the final Newcastle air quality newsletter for autumn 2017 and in future seasonal newsletters.	Ongoing from 19/07/17	EPA
Recommendation 2. The Committee recommended the EPA prepares a communications strategy for the Committee's consideration, detailing key messages on air quality, audience groups and costs and benefits of communication channels.	ASAP	EPA